

DA QA/QC: 10/17/00. SY

The Honorable Walter Williams
Acting Secretary, Department of Commerce
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Williams:

This is in reply to your letter of 11 September 1953 asking for the comments of this Agency concerning the adoption by the Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security of the principle that all U. S. aircrewmembers engaged in international flights should be subjected to a security clearance. In addition you requested the views of this Agency concerning four questions.

As a general comment we believe it should be stated that this Agency has no statutory responsibility for the Internal Security of the United States.

Your first three questions are concerned with the facilitation of the functions of this Agency by the clearance of U. S. international aircrewmembers and the possibility of extending these clearances to domestic aircrews, private pilots, etc. It is believed these questions can best be answered by stating that it is difficult to see any appreciable furtherance to the mission of this Agency by the security clearance of U. S. airline personnel engaged in international transportation.

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Your fourth question regarding a minimum security check is covered by the statement above, for your information this Agency furnishes to the FBI on a routine basis any information received from sources abroad which pertains to U. S. citizens and having a bearing on internal security. Therefore, a check of the FBI files would serve to develop the contribution of this Agency.

It is hoped you will find the above information of assistance in your study to determine the best method of implementing the ICIS principle.

18 September 1953

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

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